



# NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney  
Eastern District of Texas

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***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

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## SHERIFF'S OFFICE RECEIVES \$1.4 MILLION

(Beaumont, Texas)                      The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office has received a check for nearly one and a half million dollars. Matthew D. Orwig, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas, announced today that the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office received the \$1,428,761.23 from forfeited assets that were seized during a traffic stop nearly a year ago.

According to court documents, on April 12, 2005, a Jefferson County Sheriff's Deputy stopped a tractor-trailer on IH-10 in Jefferson County for a traffic violation. The driver lacked the appropriate license for operating the 18-wheeled vehicle and the driver and passenger gave inconsistent statements prompting deputies to request permission to search the vehicle. During the consent search, deputies discovered several suspicious boxes mixed among the valid contents of the trailer. Those same boxes contained U.S. currency in the amount of \$1,786,827.00. Both the driver and the passenger denied having any knowledge of the currency. Suspecting that the funds were the proceeds of criminal activity, the U.S. Attorney's Office filed a civil forfeiture lawsuit and all potential claimants were served with Notice and given an opportunity to claim the funds. As there has been no

claim to the funds or answer to the civil lawsuit, the funds, less 20% retained by the U.S. Department of Justice, have been transferred to the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department.

The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office investigated this case with assistance from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and the United States Marshals Service. Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert Hobbs handled the forfeiture case for the government.

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